

Desert locust update for Morocco and Sudan, the 1st dekad of December 2006

I. Meteorological and Ecological conditions

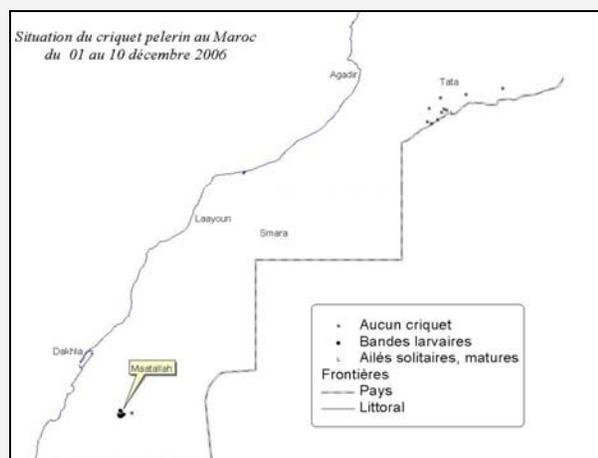
In **Morocco**, stormy weather was manifested on the Atlantic coastal plain north of the Sahara province during the first dekad of December. Light rains were recorded at **Bouarfa (19 mm)** and **Tantan (4 mm)** and the maximum temperatures varied between 11 °C - 15 °C on the highlands and at 18 °C to 25 °C southeast of the Atlas and the southwest and the minimum temperatures were appreciably lower.

The annual vegetation is drying up southeast of the anti-Atlas from the 25th parallel to north of the **Sahara Province**, but it was green in the **Ziz** and **Ghris Valleys** and south of **Errachidia** east of the **Atlas Mountains**. Patches of green vegetation were also observed in the **Draa Valley**. Ecological condition remained favorable in the wadis and low laying areas in the **Awsserd** (22°28'N/014°21'W) region in the extreme south of the country although in some areas vegetation has begun drying up (the **Agadir-based** National Center for Locust Control - CNLAA).

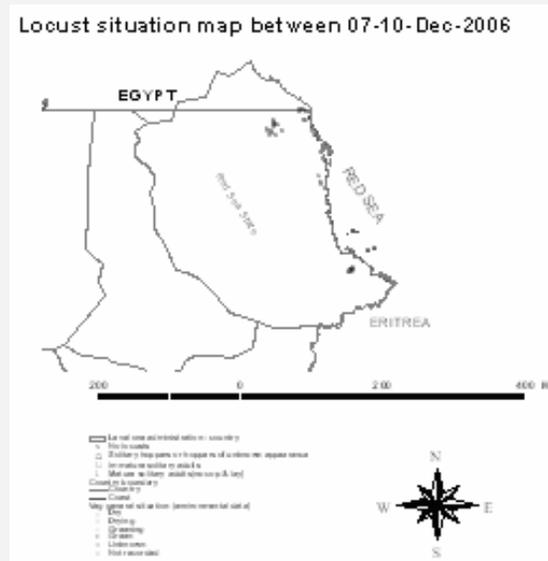
In **Sudan** light rains fell in the winter breeding areas in the **Tokar Delta** during the third dekad of November. As a result, vegetation remained green, the soil was wet and ecological conditions are favorable in this region (the **Sudan** Locust Control Center - LCC).

II. The locust situation

According to **CNLAA**, small transient hopper bands and 5th instar gregarious hoppers, at 15 hoppers/m² mixed with young adults were seen over 30-100 ha at **Maata Allah** (22°23'00N/015°03'00"W) in the **Awsserd** region, but only a single solitary adult locust was observed at **Oued Draa** during surveys carried out in the **Draa Valley, Morocco**.



The **LCC** reported that low density scattered immature and mature adult locusts were detected on **35 ha** in the **Tokar Delta** and low density, isolated hoppers were observed at **Krimbit** (18°17'28'N/37°40'54'E) during the surveys carried out on **4,539 ha** in the northern parts of the Red Sea State and the Tokar Delta on 7-10 December. The areas in the northern parts of the Red Sea State remained free of locusts.



III. Control operations

In **Morocco**, ground control operations treated small hopper bands in **990 ha** in **Moata Allah** region in the southwest. This brings the total number of hectares treated since the beginning of the current control operations on November 16th to **1,590 ha** (CNLAA). In **Sudan**, control operations were not required or carried out during the first dekad of December (LCC).

IV. Field Units

CNLAA, **Morocco** has dispatched a team equipped with a vehicle mounted with a Codan radio and data collection and transmission (eLocust2) to the **Draa Valley** in **Tata region**. The Center has also dispatched another team equipped with vehicles fitted with a **Micronair AU 8115** sprayer, a Codan radio and data collection and transmission (eLocust2), a battery operated **Micro-Ulva** atomizer and camping equipment and personal protective gear to **Moata Allah**, **Awsser** region where locust activities have been going on for sometime. **Sudan** LCC has dispatched several of its technicians and officers to the winter breeding areas in the Red Sea coastal region and adjacent areas to conduct survey and monitoring activities.

IV. Forecast

In **Morocco**, adult locusts will likely persist in the **southwest** in areas where ecological conditions are favorable and could be augmented by potential incoming locusts from northern Mauritania in the coming weeks. In **Sudan**, small-scale breeding is likely in the **Tokar Delta** in areas where mature and maturing adults were detected and ecological conditions were favorable. Consequently locust numbers could slightly increase in these areas in the coming weeks. Active monitoring and surveys are recommended.

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